GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
AMRITSAR-LAHORE BUS SERVICE
Dhindsa Shri Sukhdev Singh;Munshiram Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Amritsar-Lahore bus service which was scheduled to start from November 9, 2005 has been postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which a fresh date is likely to be announced;

(d) the details of the new routes announced for starting bus service to Pakistan;

(e) whether roads have been constructed for the purpose;

(f) if not, the time by which these are likely to be constructed;

(g) the criteria laid down for travellers to visit either country by the said service; and

(h) the time by which truck services are also likely to start on these routes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) - (h) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement as mentioned in reply to the Lok Sabha Question No.120 (Priority-XIX) for answer on 30.11.2005 regarding Amritsar-Lahore Bus Service

(a) - (c) The operationalisation of the Amritsar-Lahore bus service, scheduled for first half of November 2005, was postponed due to the October 8 earthquake. India proposed fresh dates for the trial run in November 2005 which were not accepted by Pakistan. India has accepted Pakistan`s proposal for December 11 and 13, 2005, for trial runs of the bus service by India and Pakistan respectively.

(d) - (f) India has accepted Pakistan`s proposal for talks on 20-21 December 2005 to finalise the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service. Earlier, Pakistan had cited infrastructural constraints in starting this service.

(g) Any person in possession of a valid ticket for the bus service and a valid passport, visa and other travel documents will be able to travel by the Amritsar-Lahore bus service and the proposed Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service.

(h) Attari-Wagah is already a notified Land Customs Station and trade, though limited, takes place through it. However, there is no proposal, at present, for Indian and Pakistani trucks to cross the border at Attari-Wagah.